

Kids Count of Milford

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Milford, Connecticut
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To Whom It May Concern:

This testimony is to oppose the Governor's Bill 840 which proposes to eliminate the Commission on Children.

For the past ten years, Kids Count of Milford and the entire Milford community have come to depend on the Commission on Children as a source of support, research and information on matters concerning the status of children in Connecticut.

Under the direction of Elaine Zimmerman, the Commission on Children has most recently encouraged the Milford community to implement the Parent Leadership Training Institute. This incredibly successful program, now in its second year, has been universally accepted as the best parent engagement program to help parents become advocates for their children and community.

Over the years, Milford has depended on Commission on Children information to help guide program development in such areas as the importance of preschool and school readiness, improving children's social and emotional development, school bullying, and the impact of trauma on our children.

Ms. Zimmerman has consulted to Milford on a variety of issues – and was instrumental in encouraging Milford in 1992 to implement the first and only Kids Count non profit program in the state of Connecticut the mission of which is to develop, enhance and promote the educational, social and emotional well being of children from birth to age 5 so that they enter kindergarten ready to learn.

One of the most remarkable aspects of life in Connecticut is its dedication on the importance of early childhood. Without the continued energy and forward thinking of the leadership, staff and board of the Commission on Children, this state risks the diminishment of the great possibilities for our most precious resource – our children.

I implore you to consider the impact the elimination of the a free standing Commission on Children will impart and wish you strength as you go forward at this most difficult time.

Sincerely,



Margaret E. Kelly
Executive Director